

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE

AMCONSUL GENOA

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

AMCONSUL PALERMO

AMCONSUL TRIESTE

AMCONSUL TURIN

UNCLAS ROME 9348

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IT

SUBJ: FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON AND FORMER AMBASSADOR VOLPE

CITED BY DEFENSE IN "BORGHESE COUP" TRIAL

REF: ROME 8913

1. IN THE JUNE 7 SESSION OF THE "BORGHESE COUP" TRIAL
(SEE REFTEL) THE NAMES OF FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON AND FORMER
US AMBASSADOR JOHN VOLPE WERE BROUGHT INTO THE PROCEEDINGS
BY THE DEFENSE. PRESIDENT NIXON'S NAME AROSE IN CONNECTION
WITH WRITTEN AND TAPED STATEMENTS BY REMO ORLANDI, THE FORMER
/GIUNTA/ PRESIDENT OF PRINCE JUNIO VALERIO BORGHESE'S NATIONAL
FRONT WHO REMAINS IN HIDING THOUGH A DEFENDANT IN THE TRIAL.
ORLANDI CLAIMS THAT THEN-PRESIDENT NIXON WAS AWARE OF THE PLANNED
COUP AND WAS TO HAVE BEEN CONTACTED BY THE NATIONAL FRONT
LEADERSHIP AS SOON AS THE GOVERNMENT WAS OVERTHROWN. ONE
OF THE DEFENSE LAWYERS REQUESTED THAT AMBASSADOR VOLPE BE
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CALLED AS A WITNESS TO TESTIFY ON CONVERSATIONS THAT HE HAD
WITH FORMER DEFENSE MINISTER MARIO TANASSI AND EX-ITALIAN
PRESIDENT GIUSEPPE SARAGAT WHILE SERVING AS US AMBASSADOR TO
ITALY DURING 1970 (SIC).

2. A NUMBER OF ITALIAN NEWSPAPERS REPORT ORLANDI'S CHARGES
AND THE CALL FOR VOLPE'S TESTIMONY, BUT NEARLY ALL WRITE THEM

OFF AS DELAYING TACTICS BY THE DEFENSE. THE CONSENSUS OF THE PRESS SEEMS TO BE THAT ORLANDI'S STATEMENTS ARE DESIGNED TO ENHANCE HIS OWN STATURE AND THE PRESTIGE OF NATIONAL FRONT ORGANIZATION AND THAT THEY HAVE NO BASIS IN FACT. SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS POINT OUT THAT AMBASSADOR VOLPE DID NOT ARRIVE IN ROME UNTIL OVER TWO YEARS AFTER THE COUP ATTEMPT IS ALLEGED TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN DECEMBER, 1970.GARDNER

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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